

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 01581 041407Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00  
PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07  
NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 MC-02 ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00  
IGA-02 /058 W

-----041419Z 022259 /43

O 041227Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5129

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IS, US, OVIP (RABIN, YITZHAK)

SUBJECT: RABIN VISIT: PRIME MINISTER TO SEEK BASIC UNDERSTANDING

1. ON THE EVE OF THE DEPARTURE OF PRIME MINISTER RABIN FOR HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON, THERE IS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT HE WILL TRY TO ESTABLISH A SOLID UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE U.S. PRESS COMMENT, THE GENERAL THEMES OF WHICH APPEAR TO REFLECT A COMMON HIGH LEVEL BACKGROUNDING, STRESS THESE POINTS. FOR EXAMPLE, THE JERUSALEM POST WRITES THAT: "THE MAIN PURPOSE OF PRIME MINISTER RABIN'S TALKS IN WASHINGTON NEXT WEEK WILL BE TO ESTABLISH A BASIC POLITICAL UNDERSTANDING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER AND THE MEMBERS OF HIS NEW ADMINISTRATION. ACCORDING TO TOP-LEVEL SOURCES, RABIN DOES NOT INTEND TO PUT FORWARD ANY NEW POLITICAL PROPOSALS, BUT WILL BE INTENT ON LAYING OUT IN DETAIL THE EXISTING FUNDAMENTALS OF ISRAEL POLICY ON WAYS OF ACHIEVING A MIDDLE EAST PEACE SETTLEMENT." SIMILARLY, DANI BLOCH WRITES IN DAVAR THAT RABIN WILL NOT DISCUSS THE SALE OF CONCUSSION BOMBS NOR THE BAN ON THE KFIR

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SALE TO ECUADOR. THE HEADLINE ON AN ARTICLE BY MATTI GOLAN IN HAARETZ SAYS THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WILL "SEEK TO ESTABLISH COOPERATION WITH THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION."

2. MARGALIT, ALSO WRITING IN HAARETZ, TURNS TO A DISCUSSION OF THE MORE GENERAL SUBJECTS WHICH RABIN WILL VOICE: "DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES REPORTED ON THE EVE OF PRIME MINISTER

RABIN'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON THAT ISRAEL BELIEVES THAT THE BEST WAY TO REACH A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT IN THE AREA IS BY SEEKING INTERIM AGREEMENTS AN AN END TO THE STATE OF BILLIGERENCY. THESE DIPLOMATIC SOURCES ADDED THAT ISRAEL WOULD HAVE PREFERRED AN OVERALL AGREEMENT, BUT EH DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE POSITIONS OF THE PARTIES ARE IMMENSE, AND IT WOULD BE MORE PRACTICAL TO PROGRESS ALONG THE AGREEMENT SYSTEM AND TOWARD AN END OF BELLIGERENCY."

3. EVRON TOLD THE CHARGE' THAT HE HAD ATTENDED THE TRIP-PLANNING MEETING RABIN HELD YESTEREAY AND THAT TODAY'S PRESS COMMENTS (ABOVE) ACCURATELY REFLECTED THE SENSE OF THAT SESSION. THIS ANDOTHER EVIDENCE LEADS US TO BELIEVE THAT RABIN IS NOT GOING TO WASHINGTON TO PRESS FOR U.S. DECISIONS (OR REVERSALS) ON SPECIFIC BILATERAL ISSUES, ALTHOUGH HE WILL NOT BE SHY IN PRESENTING THE ISRAELI VIEWPOINT IF SUCH ISSUES ARISE. PERHAPS, DAVAR, WHICH STANDS CLOSE TO THE LABOR PARTY, BEST SUMS UP THE PRIME MINISTER'S OBJECTIVE IN ITS COMMENT: "THIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON HAS NO SPECIFIC AIMS--ALTHOUGH THE SIDES WILL CERTAINLY DWELL ON SOME OF THE TOPICAL ISSUES ON THEIR AGENDAS--BUT THE IMPORTANCE OF THE TALKS LIES IN THE VERY FACT OF THEIR BEING GENERALIZED, A MUTUAL EXPLORATION OF LINES AND POSITIONS WHICH IN PRINCIPLE ARE TO BE ANTICIPATED."  
DUNNIGAN

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, OVIP, IS, US, (RABIN, YITZHAK)  
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**Review Markings:**  
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